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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,213	10/28/2003	Kazunori Horikiri	117616	3001
25944 7590 11/26/2007 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850			EXAMINER HOANG, HIEU T	
			ART UNIT 2152	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 11/26/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/694,213

Applicant(s)

HORIKIRI ET AL.

Examiner

Hieu T. Hoang

Art Unit

2152

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to communication filed on 10/04/2007.
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/04/2007 has been entered.
3. Claim 26 is new.
4. Claims 1-26 are pending and presented for examination.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 1-6, 8, 10-14, and 16-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalal et al. (US 2003/0014488, hereafter Dalal), in view of Zhu et al. (US 2003/0220973, hereafter Zhu).

8. For claim 1, Dalal discloses a teleconference system for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems (abstract), the teleconference system comprising:

- site systems each being installed at a plurality of sites, each site system being configured to operate the corresponding conference system (fig. 1, clients with client conference controllers);
- a shared workspace server configured to connect the site systems to each other (fig. 1, conference service provider) so as to allow users of the site systems to share a workspace for using a task among the site systems (fig. 2, [0012], conference control tasks are performed to enable users to perform cooperative work) and
- an authenticator to control user access to the files in the shared workspace based on an access control list ([0057], user ID, [0046] lines 4-10, retrieving a conference database record file requires checking for user ID associated with that conference)

Dalal does not explicitly disclose:

- for sharing and editing files to enable users to perform cooperative work between the site systems;

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However, in the same field of endeavors, Zhu discloses:

- for sharing and editing files to enable users to perform cooperative work between the site systems (abstract, a user can open and edit a recorded file in a conference);

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal and Zhu to edit and share conference files among conference users (Zhu, abstract).

9. For claim 2, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to manage a session for managing connection of the site systems ([0019]-[0021]), a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference ([0036], lines 11-20), reference information to a resource relevant to the conference ([0049], claim 6), and history information of file access made by conference participants ([0036] lines 5-12).

10. For claim 3, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to provide a user interface for connecting a session and making reference to a file and/or a resource (fig. 5, web browser, [0097]).

11. For claim 4, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to instruct, when a client starts a session, all other clients already starting the session to connect to the client ([0043], [0058]).

12. For claim 5, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the site system comprises: an electronic whiteboard configured to provide a graphical user interface provided by a shared workspace (fig. 5, web browser providing a shared workspace, [0097]); a video and audio server configured to code and decode video and audio and to transmit and receive video and audio to and from any other site system for sharing motion and behavior of participants at the sites ([0024], [0031], [0080]); an authentication unit configured to authenticate identification of the participants ([0047], [0036]); and a site server configured to manage a session in the site systems (fig. 1, client session controller), a file used in a conference and created as a record of the conference, reference information to a resource relevant to the conference, and history information of file access made by the participants ([0036] lines 5-20).

13. For claim 6, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to select a workspace based on user identification information transmitted from the site system ([0030]).

14. For claim 8, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to select a workspace based on workspace specification information transmitted from the site system ([0036] lines 5-9).

15. For claim 10, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to respond to a file reference request received from the site system, to start application software to reference the file, and to provide an input/output interface with the application for each site system with a session established ([0036], [0096]).

16. For claim 11, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the shared workspace server is further configured to, in a case where the file specified in the file reference request is not previously registered in the workspace, temporarily register the file ([0057] lines 1-6, [0058] lines 1-6).

17. For claim 12, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the site system is configured to start application software to reference the file specified in a file reference request, and to provide an input/output interface with the application for any other site system with a session established ([0036], [0096]).

18. For claim 13, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the site system is further configured to receive the file specified in a file reference request from any other site system, to start application software to reference the file, and to provide an input/output interface with the application for any other site system with a session established ([0046] lines 10-18, [0036], [0096]).

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19. For claim 14, Dalal-Zhu discloses a teleconference support method for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems, the method comprising:

- providing at least one workspace to be shared by one or more conference systems ([0025], [0021]);
- opening at least one workspace of the at least one workspace in response to workspace selection of a user ([0051], joining a conference, [0055]);
- adding at least one opened workspace to an active workspace ([0054]-[0055], [0061] lines 14-18);
- managing use of the at least one workspace ([0026] lines 1-11);
- authenticating user access of the files in the opened workspace based on an access control list ([0057], user ID, [0046] lines 4-10, retrieving a conference database record file requires checking for user ID associated with that conference);

Dalal does not explicitly disclose:

- allowing users of the conference systems to share and to edit files to perform cooperative work between conference systems, wherein the files are located in the opened workspace;

However, in the same field of endeavors, Zhu discloses:

- allowing users of the conference systems to share and to edit files to perform cooperative work between conference systems, wherein the files are located in

the opened workspace (abstract, a user can open and edit a recorded file in a conference);

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal and Zhu to edit and share conference files among conference users (Zhu, abstract).

20. For claim 16, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes providing a user interface for making reference to a file and/or a resource (fig. 5, web browser, [0097]).

21. For claim 17, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes registering reference to a file and/or a resource ([0036] lines 5-20).

22. For claim 18, Dalal-Zhu further discloses the managing use of the workspace includes switching a workspace, starting a subworkspace, and terminating the workspace ([0067]-[0069], switching a workspace is just terminating the workspace and start a new workspace or subworkspace).

23. For claim 19, Dalal-Zhu further discloses in the managing use of the workspace, the original workspace is deactivated in the switching of the workspace and/or in the starting of the subworkspace ([0069], the real-time session is closed with the SPMS before a user can start a new workspace (or switch to a new workspace)).

24. For claim 20, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 4.
25. For claim 21, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 6.
26. For claim 22, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 7.
27. For claim 23, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 8.
28. For claim 24, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as claim 9.
29. For claim 25, the claim is rejected for the same rationale as in claim 15.
30. For claim 26, Dalal discloses a teleconference system for supporting realization of cooperative work among a plurality of conference systems, the teleconference system comprising:

site systems, each being installed at a plurality of sites, each site systems being configured to operate the corresponding conference system (fig. 1, clients with client conference controllers);

a shared workspace server configured to connect the site systems to each other and to provide a workspace, which is shared among the site systems (fig. 1, conference

service provider, fig. 2, [0012], conference control tasks are performed to enable users to perform cooperative work),

Dalal does not explicitly disclose:

in which users of the site systems share and edit files cooperatively;

a storage that stores the files which have been shared and edited, to allow a user to access the files after the sharing and the editing are completed.

However, Zhu discloses the same (abstract, edit and sharing files cooperatively, fig. 4 step 460, store data in a database after editing or sharing).

Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal and Zhu to edit and share conference files among conference users (Zhu, abstract).

31. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalal-Zhu, as applied to claim 14 above.

32. For claim 15, Dalal-Zhu substantially discloses the invention as in claim 14 above. Dalal-Zhu does not explicitly selecting a workspace from a plurality of workspace candidates from a user interface.

However, Dalal-Zhu discloses the display of an invitation message so that the user can choose to join the conference, i.e. workspace, conference rooms (Dalal,

[0051], conference information is displayed for the user to select, reading a workspace candidate as an invitation message displayed on the user interface).

Therefore, according to MPEP 2144.02, section VI(b), Duplication of Parts, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to modify the teachings of Dalal in order to provide a plurality of invitation messages and then display a plurality of invitation messages to the user so that the user can select a conference or a workspace associated with an invitation message that he/she wants to join to provide more functionality to the system and more flexibility to the user (e.g., he/she can decide which conference is more necessary to attend now and which can be hold off).

33. Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dalal-Zhu, as applied to claims 6 and 8 above, in view of Kisliakov (2005/0178833).

34. For claims 7 and 9, Dalal-Zhu substantially discloses the invention as in claims 6 and 8 above. Dalal-Zhu discloses the shared workspace server is configured to select the workspace based on the user identification information or workspace identification information transmitted by the site system. Dalal-Zhu does not explicitly disclose that the identification information is transmitted using an IC card.

However, Kisliakov discloses using an IC card to store session and user identification information (see, e.g., [0227]).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious for one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Dalal-Zhu and Kisliakov in order to store ID information in a smart card therefore provide ease of ID information storage and retrieval with increased security protection (Kisliakov, [0002]).

Conclusion


38. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hieu T. Hoang whose telephone number is 571-270-1253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HH



BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

11/21/7